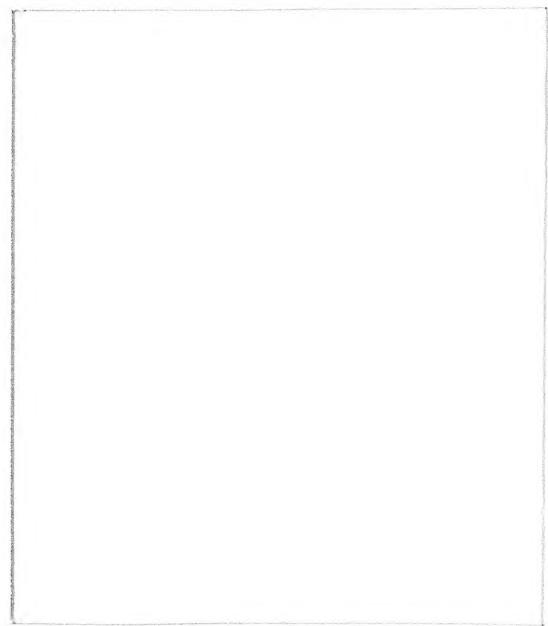
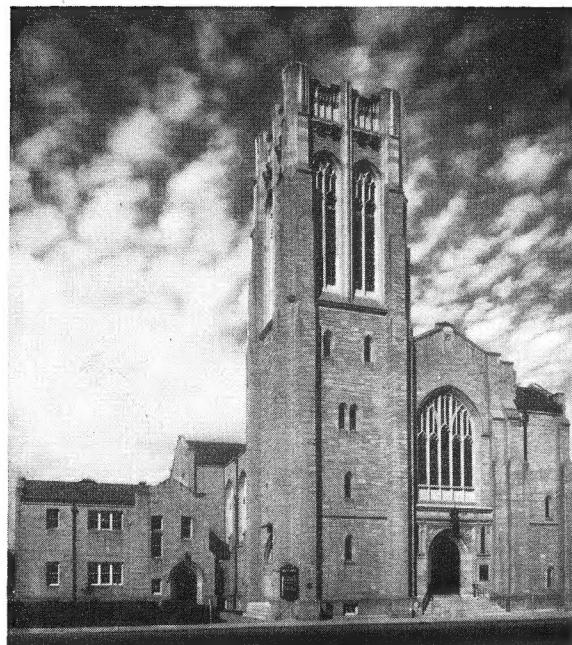


A Souvenir of the
SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY
of
Knox United Church
CALGARY ALBERTA



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1953



Knox United Church

Calgary, Alberta

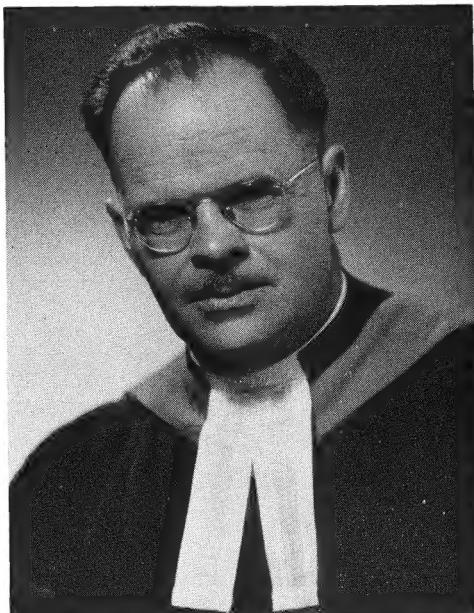
SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

1883 - 1953

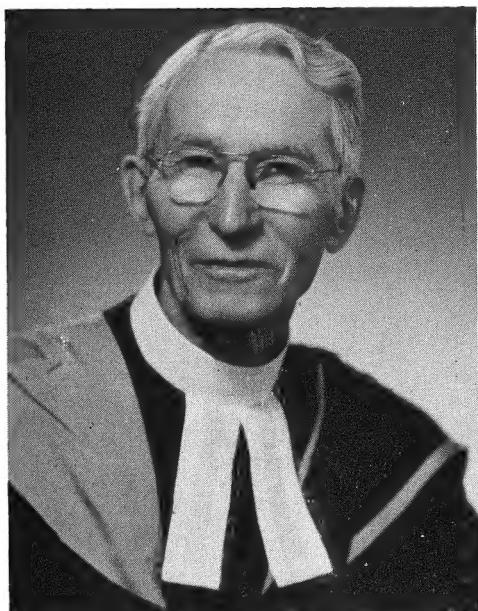


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The Ministers



REV. G. PRESTON MACLEOD, M.A., D.D.
INDUCTED MARCH 4TH, 1949



REV. J. REX BROWN, D.D.
MINISTER EMERITUS, 1953
ASSISTANT MINISTER 1941-1952



REV. BENJAMIN L. HODDER, B.A.
INDUCTED JUNE 27TH, 1951
ASSISTANT MINISTER

Calendar of Events

SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY, 1953

October 1st-25th — The Session's Special Anniversary Project of Visitation Evangelism leading up to the Anniversary Communion on October 25th.

October 15th-22nd — Knox Church shares in The United Church travelling Exposition and Pageant. Pageant in Western Canada High School Auditorium, October 20th, 21st and 22nd, with R. R. Gibb of Knox as local director.

October 25th — Seventieth Anniversary Communion Services, Reception of New Members following Visitation Evangelism.

November 6th — Knox Woman's Association Seventieth Anniversary Tea and Bazaar.

November 15th — Seventieth Anniversary Services.

7:30 p.m. — Pageant Story of Knox Church, directed by Harold and Leona Paterson.

Launching of Anniversary Every Member Canvass.

November 22nd — Seventieth Anniversary Services.

Preacher, Rev. Allen R. Huband, D.D., of Westminster United Church, Winnipeg.

November 24th — Seventieth Anniversary Congregational Dinner and Rally.

Historical Sketch of Knox United Church

(Including a summary of material assembled and edited by Jessie I. Smith for the Sixtieth Anniversary)

BEGINNINGS—Pastorates of Rev. Angus Robertson, 1883-1885 and Rev. J. C. Herdman D.D., 1885-1902.

IN June, 1883, thirty worshippers attended the first service of Knox Presbyterian Church in the frontier store of the I. G. Baker Company. Rev. Angus Robertson, ordained on May 24th and appointed to the Calgary field, had travelled by train from Winnipeg to the end of the steel at Dunmore (east of Medicine Hat), where he had bought a team and driven on to Calgary, arriving on June 11th.

Rev. Dr. John McDougall had been at work in the Indian Missions for a decade, but Angus Robertson was the first clergyman to begin regular work among the new settlers.

Subsequent services were held in the hospital of the Royal North West Mounted Police Barracks, and later in a tent.

In the fall of 1883 a small frame church was erected east of the Elbow River at a cost of \$1000. Part of the lumber was shipped all the way from Winnipeg on the personal note of Col. James Walker, who supervised the work on the new building. This church was opened for worship in November, free of all debt.

During the winter of 1883-84 the church was moved across the frozen Elbow River to the new townsite near the railway depot.



1883

Rev. Angus Robertson resigned in 1885 to do missionary work in the High River area. He died in 1890 at the early age of 34. A tablet to his memory is on the front wall of the present Knox Church, and the Angus Robertson W. M. S. Auxiliary perpetuates his name and memory.

In 1885 Rev. James C. Herdman became the second minister of Knox Church. A new church building, the first stone structure to be erected in Calgary, was begun in 1886 and completed in 1887, again under the supervision of Col. Walker, who was chairman of the board of managers. The site at the northeast corner of Seventh Ave., and Centre St. was presented by the C.P.R. Two stone masons had to be brought from Winnipeg to put up this church. It served the congregation for the next twenty years. The corner stone was laid by Lady MacDonald, wife of Sir John A. MacDonald, then Prime Minister of Canada.

At that time the organ was supplied by a manually operated bellows. Organ blowers were engaged at \$14 per annum. Two of them are with us at this Seventieth Anniversary, Alex McTavish and Allan Smith.

Dr. Herdman resigned to become Home Mission Superintendent for Alberta and British Columbia in 1902.

EXPANSION—Pastorates of Dr John A Clark, 1903-1915 and Dr J. McCartney Wilson, 1917-1923.

IN the autumn of 1903, Rev. John A. Clark was called from Cowan Ave. Presbyterian Church, Toronto.

During his pastorate the city grew rapidly and the congregation with it.

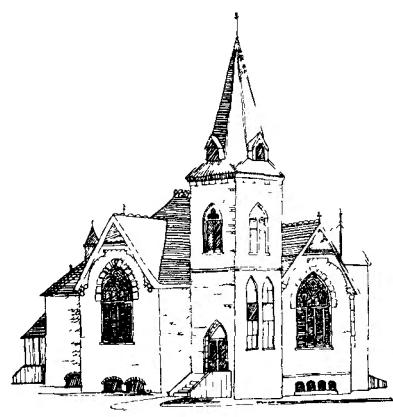
In 1905 a new sanctuary, with folding doors opening into the old, was dedicated, and a new pipe organ installed. Dr. Herdman and Dr. C. W. Gordon (Ralph Connor) preached at the opening services.

About this time individual communion cups were adopted, and the envelope system of giving was instituted. The Session rejected a proposal to garb the choir in gowns and mortar-boards, but reversed this decision in 1909.

In 1912 the first vote on Church Union recorded 244 in favour and 60 opposed.

During this period Knox Church assisted in starting several new congregations and welfare projects in the city. Grace Church was organized in the southwest suburbs in 1905. St. Andrew's Church in East Calgary was started in 1906, and in 1908-09 mission projects were begun which are now incorporated in Scarborough, St. Paul's and Hillhurst United Churches. The Mountview Home was established in 1912. A few years before, the Chinese Mission was placed under the supervision of the Knox Church Session.

It became necessary to build a fourth Knox Church. The corner-stone of the present noble building on the northeast corner of Sixth Avenue and Fourth Street W. was laid in 1912, and opening services were held in the new structure on September 14th, 1913, the Thirtieth Anniversary of the founding of the congregation. The enterprise and faith in the future of the congregation which undertook to raise so spacious and impressive a church in the Calgary of forty years ago is seen in the size of the debt to which they had obligated themselves by the time the church was opened, namely the sum of \$184,-



1885-1905

610.10, which grew still larger over the next few years. The original guarantors of the mortgage were R. J. Hutchings, John C. McNeill, T. J. S. Skinner, A. M. Terrill, John A. Langlands, J. T. MacDonald and O. G. Devenish. A number of other men put up life insurance policies as a further guarantee. The first four of the above mentioned guarantors also gave the major impetus to the big debt-reduction drive of 1927 to which further mention is made. This spacious and harmoniously proportioned church is still widely regarded as the most beautiful place of worship in the Western Provinces.

In 1915 Dr. Clark accepted a call to St. Matthew's Church, Halifax. Rev. Dr. J. M. Fulton supplied the pulpit with strong and experienced leadership during 1916. A pastorate of great promise was cut short on June 8th 1917, when Rev. Dr. W. H. Fraser, who had been inducted only five weeks before, took suddenly ill, and passed away.

Dr. J. McCartney Wilson was inducted on December 26th, 1917. He is still remembered for his scholarly presentation of the Gospel, his cultural attainments and his sympathetic pastoral ministry to those bereaved in the war.

Mr. Clifford Higgin became organist and choir director in 1920. In 1922 his choir won seven awards in the musical festival. For twenty-five years he gave musical leadership of a high order in the worship of Knox Church.

On January 2nd, 1921, the beautiful and unique War Memorial Window in the north wall was dedicated.

At this same service, the flag that was carried in battle by the Eighth Field Ambulance was deposited in the church. In 1925 the colours of Calgary's famous Tenth Battalion were also placed in the church. The latter flag hung from the west wall until the Tenth Battalion Association replaced it with beautiful new flags on April 26th, 1953. The Eighth Field Ambulance flag hangs from the east wall.

Mr. Ho Lem became an elder in 1920, the first Chinese in Canada to be ordained to this office. In June 1922, Dr. Campbell Morgan conducted one of his celebrated preaching and teaching missions in this church.

BEFORE AND AFTER UNION—Pastorates of Dr. George A. Dickson, 1924-1934, and Dr. Warwick F. Kelloway, 1934-1939.

THE Rev. Geo. A. Dickson became minister of Knox on February 3rd, 1924. During the previous two months the pulpit was occupied by the father of our present minister, Rev. Geo. B. MacLeod, who came from Toronto to give interim supply.

Dr. Dickson came when the Union controversy was at its height. In 1925 Knox Church voted by a substantial majority to go into the United Church of Canada. Valued members were lost over this issue, a matter of real regret on

both sides. However, the Congregational Church of Calgary came over into Knox in a body.

A bronze Memorial Tablet bearing the names of 53 Knox men who gave their lives in the First World War was unveiled in 1927. A year later ten memorial windows were dedicated, adding greatly to the beauty of the Sanctuary.



1905-1913

In 1927, a drive to reduce the large debt on the church, which had stood at its all time peak of \$210,453.65 in 1917, brought a generous contribution of \$54,000, leaving a net debt of \$76,592 as of 1927.

Dr. Dickson was called to the historic Metropolitan Church, Toronto in 1934. His popular and influential ministry at Knox Church was climaxed by the celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the congregation in 1933. Col. Walker was present, the only surviving member of the original board of managers of 50 years before.

Dr. Warwick F. Kelloway came from Dominion Church, Ottawa, to succeed Dr. Dickson in 1934. His ministry, coinciding with the great depression, stressed the application of the Gospel to the grievous social and economic conditions that prevailed. A large number of study groups were organized under his leadership throughout the city to foster public concern.

The Senior Boys Department reached an all time high of 138 members in this period. On October 4th, 1936 a record 1,084 partook of Communion.

In 1939 the annual three hour Good Friday service of the United Church Ministerial Association was inaugurated. It is still held in Knox Church.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE PERIOD—Pastorate of Dr. Allen R. Huband, 1940-1948.

DR. W. G. Wilson of Victoria was interim minister for one year, following Dr. Kelloway's resignation in the Spring of 1939. His wise and experienced leadership was of great benefit to the congregation.

In 1940 Rev. Allen R. Huband of Chalmers Church, Woodstock, Ontario, was inducted as minister, and in July 1941, Rev. Rex Brown, became assistant minister.

Dr. Huband ministered faithfully and well throughout the trying years of the Second World War, with special attention to the people's needs in wartime, the enlisted men in the community, and the men overseas.

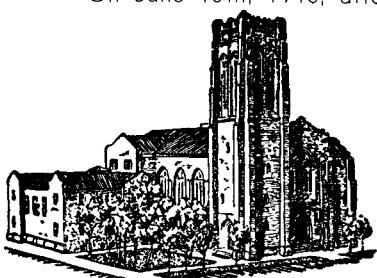
The Diamond Jubilee of the congregation was celebrated in 1943. In addition to many special services, extensive renovations and improvements were made to the Church and organ.

Mr. Cyril S. Mossop became choirmaster in November 1944, and a year later, following the resignation of Mr. Clifford Higgin, after twenty-five years of most valuable service in the leadership of music, Mr. Mossop became both organist and choirmaster.

Under Mr. Mossop's direction the choir consistently provides inspiring leadership according to the finest standards of devotional music. Today both Junior and Senior choirs contribute greatly to the high worship of the sanctuary in the service of sacred song.

On June 13th, 1948, after an appeal for a special War Memorial Fund ably led by Dr. A. W. Park, the Carillonic Bells and the bronze Memorial Plaque were dedicated in memory of the 32 Knox members who fell in the Second World War.

A full listing of memorial stained glass windows up to that date is given in the Souvenir Booklet of the Diamond Jubilee of 1943. During Dr. Huband's ministry two additional memorial windows were donated and dedicated as follows:



1913

On May 15th, 1948, "The Light of the World", on the west wall of the nave, donated in memory of Mr. J. C. McNeill, by Mrs. McNeill.

On September 26th, 1948, "The King of Kings", on the east wall of the nave, donated in memory of Mr. T. J. S. Skinner by Mr. W. H. Skinner and family.

THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

REV. Allen R. Huband accepted a call to Westminster United Church, Winnipeg, in 1948. Following three months supply by Rev. H. E. D. Ashford, the induction of Rev. G. Preston MacLeod, who came from four years' experience with the Very Rev. Geo. C. Pidgeon in Bloor St., United Church in Toronto, took place on March 4th, 1949.

The Rev. B. L. Hodder was inducted as assistant minister on June 27th, 1951.

With the three ministers, Dr. MacLeod, Mr. Hodder and Dr. Brown working together as a harmonious and thoroughly integrated team, a spirit of confidence and unity is evident in the life and work of the congregation.

Just previous to the arrival of Rev. and Mrs. MacLeod with their family, the congregation decided to sell the old manse at 1716-10A St. W., which had been residence of its ministers since 1929, and purchased the very attractive home at 615-13th Ave. West. The Women's Association took an active part in promoting this project, and have assumed responsibility for the general oversight and maintenance of the new manse. A major part of their annual contribution to the church has been the making of principal and interest payments on the mortgage covering the new manse.

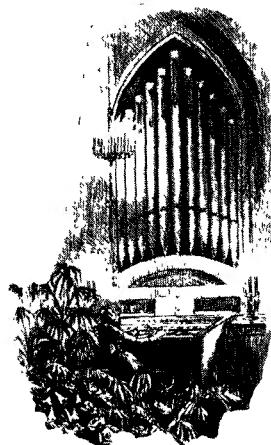
The major project of the W. A. in 1952 was the successful raising of over \$3,000 for the renovation and modernizing of the Church Parlours. All organizations of the Church were enlisted in this co-operative effort, which culminated in the "Festival of Knox" tea, bazaar and concert in November.

On September 23rd, 1951, another fine stained glass window, "The Marriage in Cana of Galilee", installed in the east wall of the nave, was dedicated in memory of Dr. Omer H. Patrick, the gift of Mrs. Patrick. Four more windows remain to be filled, one at each side of the gallery, and two in the east transept.

Rev. J. Rex Brown was selected by the Junior Chamber of Commerce as "Good Citizen" of Calgary for 1950. In 1952 St. Stephen's College, Edmonton, conferred upon him the D.D. degree. Dr. Brown resigned at the close of the year 1952, after eleven years of active service as assistant minister, and was named Minister Emeritus at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation in January, 1953.

Knox Church, true to its traditions, has accepted its full share of responsibility in donating substantial amounts for the special projects of the United Church at large, notably in recent years, in its contributions to the new building of St. Stephen's College in Edmonton, and in its givings to the church extension loan fund of the Calgary Home Mission Council.

This Seventieth Anniversary year, which is the fortieth anniversary of the opening of the present building, sees the debt on the church, which as has been mentioned amounted to \$210,453.65 in 1917, almost wiped out. At the time of writing it stands at approximately \$3,500.00.

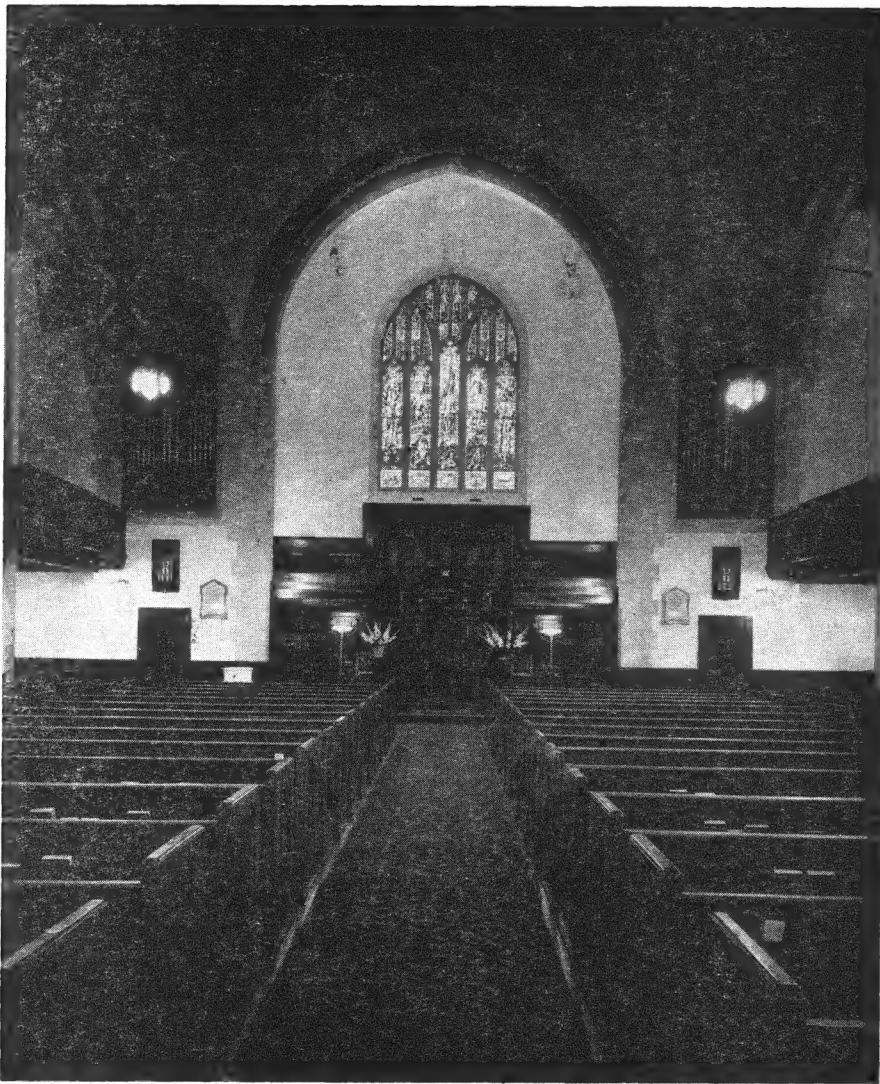


This congregation has been served through the years by assistant pastors, deaconesses, church secretaries, organists, singers, office bearers and lay workers too numerous to mention here. But acknowledgment should be made of the long and faithful service of John Singleton who came to Knox as caretaker in February, 1929 and of our Church Secretary, Miss Jessie Carlye, whose sympathetic understanding of the many individuals who make up a large and scattered congregation, and gracious obliging spirit have made a most valuable contribution to the life of this Church.

The devotion, generosity and genuine love of the Church which many members have thankfully contributed throughout these seven decades can only be surmised. Looking back on what we owe to those who have gone before us, we are inspired to look forward with hope and confidence.

In 1952, a group which included a large proportion of the younger men in the church, took a look at the future and persuaded the A.O.T.S. Men's Club to embark on an adventurous new enterprise. Seeing the surrounding land being quickly taken up for commercial purposes in the rapid expansion of down-town Calgary, and with the full support and co-operation of the A.O.T.S. Club, they secured title to a parcel of land immediately to the north of the Church, financing the purchase by the sale of interest bearing bonds to Church members who also had the future benefit of the congregation at heart. Costing \$41,600 this property, with an 80 foot frontage on 4th St. West and extending 130 feet to the eastern boundary of the present Knox property, is owned by a company composed of members of the congregation which was organized for the purpose under the name of Knoxhall Limited, and is held for the sole use and benefit of Knox Church. The Memorandum and Articles of Association of Knoxhall Limited, giving to Knox Church the option to take over this property at any time at the price of the unredeemed bonds, was presented to the congregation by the A.O.T.S. Club at the annual congregational meeting on January 28th, 1953. Thus the opportunity is kept open for a more adequate social and recreational hall, suitable office space, a small chapel and such other facilities as will make possible a more effective service to its constituency on the part of this now historic church, with its beautiful building, which must ever remain a noble feature of down-town Calgary.

Looking to the future, this congregation, proud of its pioneer heritage in Christian service, and aware of the continuous contribution which it has been privileged to make to the religious life of Calgary through seventy years, can move forward with confidence that God will give new opportunities to serve old and young and all classes of the people in the changing life of a rapidly expanding city, in new ways and in a vastly altered world, with the witness and saving fellowship of the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ.



THE SANCTUARY, the House of God. We enter it reverently, for it is His dwelling. We appreciate its strength and beauty, remembering in what faith and at what cost and labor it was built.

The Sanctuary, The House of Prayer, the sacred place where God is worshipped, where His sacraments are administered, where His Word is preached, His will is made known, His grace is realized, and His people are refreshed.

From its pulpit are radiated courage for the downcast, forgiveness for the sinner, comfort for the sorrowing, humility for the proud, light for those who sit in darkness, and inspiration for those who have been beaten down with misfortune and disappointment.

From its organ sound forth the hymns

and spiritual songs of the ages; the common language of devotion and praise; solemn tones that subdue the spirit and that summon to duty and service.

In its pews are those who, within the bonds of a blessed fellowship have pledged themselves to attend its services, to obey its precepts, to pray for those who minister and for fellow members; to give as they are able; and to work for the unity, peace, and prosperity of the church.

Secure in a land of liberty, may this sanctuary ever witness to the sovereignty of God, the effectiveness of His redemption, and the ultimate triumph of His Kingdom or righteousness, peace and joy.

(Adapted from "Church Management")

